

September 22nd, 2013

To: Representative Nesbitt and the members of the House Energy and Technology Committee

RE: Review of Public Act 295 of 2008

As a recent college graduate just entering the workforce, saving money is of prime importance to me, but money is not the only reason why I support PA 295 and the expansion of the Energy Optimization (EO) standard. I am also a concerned citizen who worries about the health and environmental effects of coal plants on both present and future generations. And I am a proud Michigander who believes that increased energy efficiency will allow our state to provide its residents with clean, affordable, Michigan-made energy.

PA 295 has so far proven to be highly successful economically for both ratepayers and utility companies and I have faith it will continue to do so. A 2013 report on the implementation of PA 295 from MPSC highlighted that the combination of energy efficiency and the renewable energy standard is helping to bring costs down to an average of \$46 megawatt/hour—one third less than the cost of electricity from a combined cycle natural gas plant. Furthermore, a 2012 MPSC report on the implantation of PA 295 utility energy optimization has shown that DTE received a \$8.5 million bonus for exceeding the EO standard in 2001 and Consumers Energy will receive a \$8.5 million reward as well. With PA 295, consumers and companies both win.

Unfortunately, where Michigan residents lose out though is in the state's continued reliance on coal-powered electricity. By expanding the EO standard from just 1% to 2%, we can help our state become healthier and less dependent on coal electricity, much of which is produced from coal imported from other states that costs us \$1.7 billion a year and \$1.5 billion in health care costs. In this day and age, we should no longer be reliant on dirty energy that harms us and the state in more ways than one. It's time to move away from our old ways and embrace energy sources that are better and more sustainable—both environmentally and economically—in the long term.

I am very happy with what PA 295 has done thus far for Michigan citizens and the state as a whole. I believe it's now necessary we build upon this good work by increasing the Energy Optimization standard. I hope the House Energy and Technology Committee agrees and will make the right decision to ensure that Michigan continues on the right path to a sustainable, healthier and Michigan-made energy future.

Sincerely,
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